



AFOA CANADA BOARD NOMINATIONS

SLATE OF NOMINEES TO STAND FOR ELECTION AT AFOA CANADA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - OCTOBER 3, 2018, OTTAWA, ON

The AFOA Canada has three nominees to stand for election at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Members to fill two vacant positions. All members in good standing are eligible to vote. Please renew your membership or become a member of AFOA Canada to ensure your vote counts.



Helen Bobiwash, CPA, CMA, CAFM

Helen Bobiwash is a Chartered Professional Accountant (Certified Management Accountant) and Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager. She is Anishinabe Kwe from the Thessalon First Nation near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Helen is an independent accountant who is based on the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek near Sudbury, Ontario. She's been working directly with First Nations and Aboriginal not-for-profit organizations for almost 25 years. Helen's services focus on building financial capacity within Aboriginal communities. She works with the First Nations and Aboriginal organization to improve efficiencies in their financial administration, to aid in financial reporting within the community and to government funders, and to facilitate strategic and operational planning. Helen is proud to have been on the negotiating team for the education fiscal transfer agreement supporting the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement, the largest education self-government agreement in Canada involving twenty-three First Nations in Ontario.

Helen has made ongoing contributions to AFOA Canada. As a volunteer, she has delivered workshops at AFOA Canada's National and Ontario Chapter conferences, and she has written articles for the Journal of Aboriginal Management. As an independent contractor for AFOA Canada, Helen has shared her knowledge and experience on contracts pertaining to financial literacy and financial reporting.



Sharon Stevenson, BA, HBA, CAFM, CAPA
Meshakay Kinew – Swooping Eagle

"The strength of the community comes from within."

Born and raised on the Peguis First Nation in Manitoba, Sharon strives to share her knowledge, education, resources, skills and time with a variety of local groups and government departments in Peguis, regionally and nationally.

She continued her post-secondary education at the University of Manitoba, after graduating from Peguis Central School, which had just undertaken local control of Indian education. She then attended the University of Western Ontario, Ivey School of Business, as the first Indigenous female student. Always looking for new skills and training, Sharon pursued her CAFM and CAPA designations with AFOA Canada. She also attended the inaugural Harvard Business School Executive Education program 'Leading People and Investing to Build Sustainable Communities'. Sharon continued her vision to pursue retail Banking experience with the Royal Bank, knowledge of the workings of the Federal Government during her time with Indian Affairs Headquarters, and her eventual return to Peguis after having accumulated this knowledge and experience. Sharon has many years in the financial management field, having held a position as Finance Manager for the Peguis First Nation Education and Finance departments. This opportunity has enabled her to share her knowledge and train many up and coming accountants and finance staff.

As an elected Peguis Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Financial Trustee, Sharon has taken on the role with full vigor and commitment to learning all that she can about the Trust Industry and getting to know the representatives, Investment Managers and other community trusts. She enjoys sharing her skills and experiences at the National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association (NATOA) and AFOA Canada conferences.

Currently, she is the Trust Manager for the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust, overseeing a multi-million dollar community Trust and assisting and supporting the membership of Peguis achieve their dreams and visions. It is important to know where we have come from, to determine who we are and where we are going, so we can walk together into our future.

Sharon is also currently the President of the AFOA Manitoba Chapter and a member of the Finance & Audit Committee of the Peguis First Nation. Her husband, Howard French is a member of the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation and her children Kiinnan and Anike are currently attending post-secondary institutions.

Always looking for new challenges and opportunities, Sharon is leading the way for Indigenous people to take charge of their dreams and future. A great person to get to know.



Vickie Whitehead, CPA, CGA, MBA, CAFM

Director – Aboriginal Client Services

Vickie Whitehead is a Director and the Deloitte Aboriginal Client Services British Columbia and Northwest Territories practice lead.

Vickie's has worked solely with First Nations across Canada for over 22 years. Her work at Deloitte focusses on First Nation's: Trusts, Governance, Program Management and facilitation of Strategic Planning. Prior to joining Deloitte, the majority of her career was with the Department of Indigenous Services (DISC) in the British Columbia and National Headquarters offices in various financial and management related roles. Vickie is Cree Métis, is the Vice-Chair of the National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association, on the Advisory Council of the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of BC and serves on the CPABC bylaws committee.

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